



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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June 10, 2009

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

Honolulu City Council
530 S. King St. Rm. 202
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: June 10, 2009 / 10 AM / Regular Meeting
Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund Applications

Dear Chair Apo and Council Members,

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF) is a non-profit organization of farming families united for the purpose of analyzing problems and formulating action to ensure the future of agriculture thereby promoting the well-being of farming and the State's economy.

HFBF is very active in Government and some of the Legislative Goals include:

- Adoption of sensible land use policies which will preserve agricultural lands currently in use and suitable for use in the future.
- Adoption of State and County governmental policies that will give farmers manageable water rate price structures and assure them of reliable water sources and adequate supply for their farms.
- Adoption of continuing State and County support of farmers marketing programs to expand the export of local crops and promote greater local consumption of locally produced commodities.
- Increase awareness of the economics and social contributions that agriculture makes to the State.

HFBF supports the following Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund applications, which will preserve and protect important agricultural lands on the island of O'ahu:

1. Hawai'i Agricultural Research Center's application for \$400,000 to acquire a conservation easement on 108 acres of prime agricultural land in Kūnia, which will be hold and monitored by the Agribusiness Development Corporation.
2. The Trust for Public Land's application for \$2,000,000 to acquire a conservation easement on 1,200 acres of unique agricultural land in

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COUNCIL

Wahiawā, which will be held and monitored by the North Shore Community Land Trust.

3. The Trust for Public Land's application for \$2,000,000 to acquire fee simple ownership of 500 acres of unique agricultural land in Wahiawā surrounding the Kūkaniloko Birthstones State Monument which will be held by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
4. The Maui Coastal Land Trust's application for \$609,425 to acquire a conservation easement on 27 acres of prime agricultural land in Pūpūkea, which will be held and monitored by the North Shore Community Land Trust.

These fee simple and agricultural easement acquisitions will together preserve and protect over 1,835 acres of prime and unique agricultural lands on the island of O'ahu. The easements and deed restrictions will ensure that these lands remain in agriculture and that the speculative development value is removed from these lands in perpetuity. These acquisitions will serve as examples for other agricultural landowners as a viable alternative to the development and urbanization of O'ahu's agricultural lands. These easements and deed restrictions will also ensure that any future sales of these lands will be based on the agricultural value of the lands, making agricultural production more feasible for future farmers of Hawai'i.

HFBF urges the Honolulu City Council to fund each of these projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean J. Okimoto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "J".

Dean J. Okimoto
President